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## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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JUN 13 2005

SENT VIA REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Glenn Rodgers, Chairman  
Shivwits Band of the Paiute Tribe  
P.O. Box 448  
Santa Clara, UT

Re: Results of Hecla and OMG Site Visit  
of May 16 -17, 2005

Dear Chairman Rodgers:

Enclosed for the Shivwits Band's information is a report prepared on behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by EPA Geohydrologist Randall W. Breeden, following Mr. Breeden's site visit to the former OMG facility, and the Hecla Mining Company Apex Site Pond 2 (a/k/a "Hecla Pond"), May 16-17, 2005. The report summarizes Mr. Breeden's findings and observations based on his site visit. EPA appreciates the assistance from Shivwits Band ("Band") representatives in helping the Agency achieve its travel objectives.

The purpose of the OMG site visit was to evaluate the pond reclamation project performed by OMG as a supplemental environmental project ("SEP") pursuant to the terms of the Consent Agreement with EPA, filed August 1, 2001. Based on its visit of the former OMG facility, EPA approves the SEP Completion Report ("Report") submitted to EPA by OMG on February 17, 2005. The Report, as well as the site visit, confirm that OMG successfully satisfied all requirements associated with its SEP obligation.

EPA visited the Hecla Pond to inspect and evaluate on-going closure activities, and assess the potential for off-site leachate migration via surface water or groundwater. This assessment included an analysis of the surface water drainage/flow characteristics for the watershed associated with the Hecla Pond. As a result of the site visit, EPA is assured that there is no possibility that free liquid from the impoundment could ever reach the Santa Clara River, the



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Ivins Reservoir, and the Virgin River. EPA further confirmed that the closure activities do not pose any threat of environmental harm to the Band's land or water resources. To the contrary, EPA observed the site to be in good condition and on-going closure activities subject to good engineering practices. Specific information and observations pertaining to on-going dewatering activities, as well as EPA's assessment of the ability of liquids to migrate off site, are detailed in the attached report.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding EPA's recent site visit and observations pertaining to the former OMG facility and the Hecla Pond. The persons at EPA who are most knowledgeable about this matter are Randall Breeden, RCRA Corrective Action Program Geohydrologist, at (303) 312-6522, and Amy Swanson, Enforcement Attorney, at (303) 312-6906.

Sincerely,

*for* *Eddie A. Sierra*  
Carol Rushin  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice

enc: Hecla Impoundment Technical Memorandum

cc: Lawrence Snow, Shivwits Band of Paiute Tribe  
Lora Tom, Paiute Indian Tribe  
Tod Smith, Whiteing & Smith  
John Krause, BIA Western Region Office  
Mike McNally, OMG Group  
Chris Gypton, Hecla Mining Company